



The President's Daily Brief

15 September 1973

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

15 September 1973

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Egypt's President Sadat [redacted] provided Libya with six Soviet SA-7 surface-to-air missiles; Qadhafi, in turn, gave two missiles to Fatah with orders to shoot down an Israeli airliner, and it was these that were recently confiscated from Palestinian commandos near Rome. (Page 1)

An Egyptian cabinet shuffle may be coming soon that would return to office two recently ousted moderates. (Page 2)

Some Israeli leaders think the US is on the verge of a new effort to break the impasse in the Middle East and believe Tel Aviv should not automatically oppose such a move. (Page 3)

[redacted] Soviets [redacted] submarines [redacted] (Page 5)

Although some armed opposition continues in Chile, the government is starting to give more attention to the critical economic situation. Any easing of the junta's tough attitude toward leftist extremists is unlikely. (Page 6)

In Argentina, disagreement on how to deal with the new Chilean Government emphasizes the deep rift between left and right that is one of Peron's major concerns. (Page 7)

A note on the Egypt-Jordan-Syria summit appears on Page 8.

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EGYPT-LIBYA-FEDAYEEN

[redacted] President Sadat [redacted] provided Libya with six Soviet SA-7 Strela surface-to-air missiles-- including the two recently confiscated from Palestinian commandos near Rome airport. [redacted] Qadhafi asked for the weapons for use by the Libyan military, but later gave two missiles to Fatah with orders to shoot down an Israeli airliner in retaliation for the Libyan civilian plane shot down by the Israelis last February. [redacted]

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EGYPT

A source considered reliable by the US Interests Section in Cairo says that a cabinet shuffle may be in the works which would bring back two recently ousted moderates. One is Sayyid Marai, who was dismissed as secretary general of the Arab Socialist Union early this year and would be named prime minister before the month is out. At the same time, Sadat would announce the reappointment of General Sadiq as minister of war; he was dropped last October. The cabinet changes, the source claims, would be accompanied by the announcement of a shift in the country's orientation from socialism to "democracy."

Marai was ousted largely because he did not support the sweeping purge carried out in the ASU in February and March; he was never under much of a cloud and has since served as a presidential assistant. Sadiq, fervently anti-Soviet, was tossed out at a time when Sadat was pressing hard to obtain more advanced military equipment from the Soviets. More recent statements indicate that Sadat has now dropped that for the time being, clearing the way for Sadiq's return--a move that would be popular with younger army officers.

The rehabilitation of these men--both pro-Western and anti-socialist--would correspond with other measures Sadat is trying in efforts to move Egypt away from socialism and to balance Cairo's relations with both East and West.

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ISRAEL

Some Israeli leaders think the US is on the verge of a new effort to break the impasse in the Middle East. Two articles this week in the Israeli press--

[redacted] show that the defense minister expects an initiative within the next few months. Dayan apparently believes the international climate is swinging in favor of the Arabs and that Tel Aviv should not automatically oppose a US move, which may be the least of the evils Israel can expect.

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Most Israeli leaders have reacted vociferously and negatively in the past to any hint that the US might back a new peace initiative. Now they probably reason that, given the leverage that the oil shortage provides the Arabs, a seemingly receptive attitude will buy them more time in the long run--perhaps enough to enable them to develop their own capacity to manufacture weapons, leaving them more or less immune to US pressure.

Prime Minister Meir's Labor Party platform, adopted earlier this month with little opposition, signals unmistakably that the Israelis intend to tighten their grip on the occupied territories. It calls for the expansion of Jerusalem's boundaries, at least three dozen new settlements in the Arab territories in addition

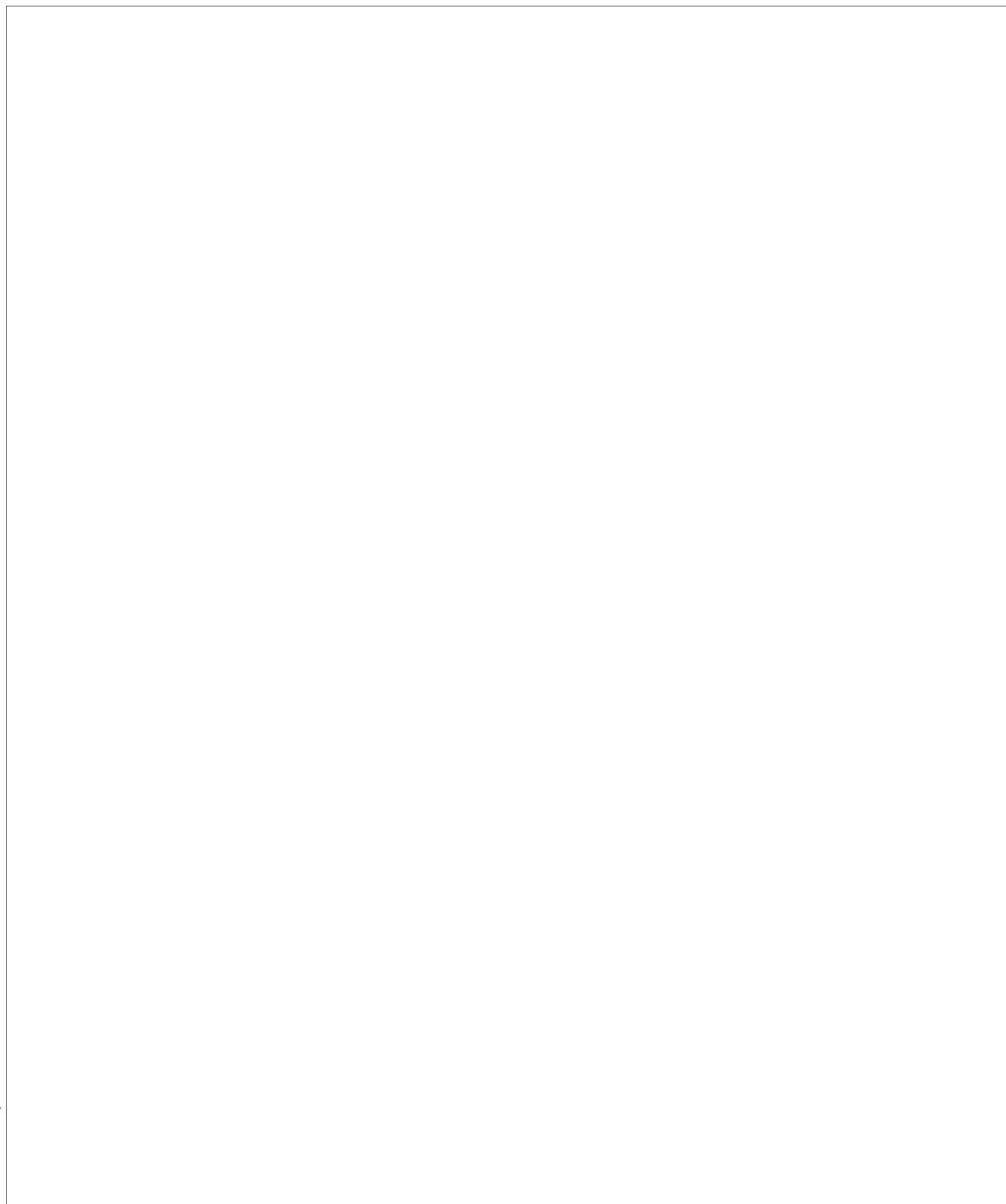
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to the present 50, and accelerated government and private acquisitions of Arab lands. The platform was primarily Dayan's doing and reflects his belief that the West Bank is Israel's "homeland," while Gaza should be kept to block any future Egyptian threat. There has never been any question in Dayan's mind about the retention of the Golan Heights, Sharm ash-Shaykh, or East Jerusalem.

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CHILE

Although some armed opposition continues, the government is starting to give more attention to the critical economic situation. Banks are scheduled to reopen Monday, and a new system for distribution of commodities has been established.

The dissolution of Congress and the proscription of military contacts with politicians indicate that an early call for elections is unlikely.

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Easing of the tough attitude toward leftist extremists is unlikely. The military is convinced that the coup came just in time to preempt plans by extremists for widespread armed violence.

Failure to respect diplomatic norms in its effort to search out leftists could cost the junta needed international support. The government may be seriously considering a raid on the North Korean Embassy to capture persons seeking asylum.

The UN Security Council meets on Monday to hear Cuba's complaints of Chilean attacks against its embassy.

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ARGENTINA

Disagreement on how to deal with the new Chilean Government emphasizes the deep rift between left and right in Argentina that is one of Peron's major concerns.

The principal immediate questions are whether Argentina should recognize Chile's junta and whether medical supplies should be shipped to Santiago. Beyond these matters, however, leftists--including Peronist youth--have seized on the Chilean issue to stir up nationalist and anti-US sentiment. [redacted]

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[redacted] The left is also playing on fears that the junta may undertake the "Brazilianization" of Chile and complete the "encirclement" of Argentina.

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Military leaders, on the other hand, are moving to cement relations with their Chilean counterparts to forestall any Chilean drift toward Brazil. [redacted]

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Peron publicly has paid lip service to the leftist point of view by condemning the coup and suggesting US complicity. [redacted]

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NOTE

Egypt-Jordan-Syria: The tripartite summit meeting in Cairo resulted in the restoration of diplomatic ties between Egypt and Jordan--a victory for King Husayn's firmness in dealing with Sadat. The possibility of restoring relations with Syria snagged, however, when Asad insisted on the readmission of some fedayeen to Jordan--even under Jordanian Army control--and Husayn refused. Husayn did accept the "principle" of a unified Arab command under an Egyptian commander, but he made it clear that his army would remain under Jordanian control at all times and would not participate in any resumption of fighting.

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